

Attorney Docket No.: **RU-0176**
Inventors: **Ryan and Bagnell**
Serial No.: **10/079,040**
Filing Date: **February 20, 2002**
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The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for predicting treatment efficacy in pregnant mares affected by a disease or condition that alters placental function and results in a problematic pregnancy or delivery in the mare comprising:

(a) measuring the a first levels of relaxin in plasma of a pregnant mare that has or is suspected to have a disease or condition that alters placental function, wherein said first level is measured before administration of a drug or treatment;

(b) administering the drug or treatment to the mare; and

(c) measuring the levels of relaxin in plasma of the mare following administration of the drug or treatment from the first day of drug treatment administration until the time of delivery in the mare, wherein a failure of the plasma relaxin levels to increase following drug or treatment administration is indicative of a problematic pregnancy or delivery in the mare.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A diagnostic kit for predicting treatment efficacy in pregnant mares affected by a disease or

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condition that alters placental function and results in a problematic pregnancy or delivery in the mare comprising:

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- (a) a means for detecting equine relaxin levels in plasma of a pregnant mare that has or is suspected to have a disease or condition that alters placental function, wherein said levels are measured before administration of a drug or treatment; and
- (b) a means of detecting equine relaxin levels in plasma of a pregnant mare that has or is suspected to have a disease or condition that alters placental function, wherein said levels are measured after administration of the drug or treatment from the first day of drug treatment administration until the time of delivery in the mare.
